

875,317 on September 29th, to \$106,821,428 on December 31st; but the demand for the redemption of notes in gold during the next two months surpassed all previous experience and carried the reserve down to \$44,705,967 on January 31, 1895. The redemptions of November were \$7,799,747 and those of December \$31,907,221. There was a slackening of the pressure during the early days of January, but it set in again with renewed violence during the last ten days of the month and drove the Treasury to the verge of the suspension of gold payments. The single day of January 25, 1895, showed redemptions of \$7,156,046, and the evening of Saturday, February 2d, arrived with only \$9,700,000 in gold coin available in the New York sub-Treasury. Even this was obtained by trenching upon the fund held for the redemption of gold certificates. Panic was seizing the business community and a single New York bank reported to Assistant Secretary Curtis that on January 30th they received over one hundred and fifty requests for gold coin, most of it evidently for hoarding.<sup>1</sup>

President Cleveland recommended the retirement of the legal tender notes and the substitution of a banking currency in his annual message to Congress in December, but the House of Representatives on January 9, 1895, refused to consider the bill reported in pursuance of this recommendation. The President on January 28th sent a special message to Congress, asking that he be given authority to retire the greenbacks and to issue bonds under more favorable conditions than those authorized by existing law. A bill to carry out his recommendations was introduced by Chairman

<sup>1</sup> Distrust of the security of United States notes or the pressure of the excessive paper currency produced a very different attitude on the part of the public towards the gold reserve after the passage of the Sherman law from that which prevailed before. The paper money presented to the Treasury for redemption in gold was 17,976,698 during the fiscal year 1879, the first six months after resumption, and declined in 1882 as low as \$40,000. The largest redemptions between 1879 and 1891 were \$6,863,699 in 1886. The redemptions in 1891 were \$5,986,070; in 1892, \$9,125,842 ; in 1893, \$102,100,345 ; in 1894, \$84,802,150; in 1895, \$117,354,178; and in 1896, \$158,655,956.